

than anyone I have ever known. I pray that we will all take up the mantle and leave our communities a little better than we found them.

ENHANCING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I am here this morning to talk about Social Security. I start with commending Chairman NEAL of the Ways and Means Committee, and especially for his formation of the Racial Equity Committee that was headed up by one of the previous speakers, TERRI SEWELL, and STEVEN HORSFORD, and JIMMY GOMEZ.

Our great colleague, John Lewis, said that Social Security would be the next civil rights movement. John had probably no idea about what the pandemic would bring. What the pandemic has done has underscored the plight and the need of all of our fellow Americans.

What I mean by that is this: This pandemic has hit the country hard. It is turning everybody's lives upside down. There are close to a million people in our country that have perished during this pandemic because of COVID-19; but 740,000 plus are over the age of 65.

In that same group over the age of 65 are, of course, the recipients of Social Security. Those recipients also are the people who are on a fixed income. People on a fixed income are hurt the hardest by the inflationary times that we are in.

That is why we have proposed Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, that is currently in the process of being marked up in the Ways and Means Committee. It is being marked up so that we can address what Martin Luther King best described as the fierce urgency of now.

What is that fierce urgency? For every Member of this body to go home and look at your brothers and sisters, their coworkers, the people you go to church and worship with, and understand that it has been more than 50 years since Congress enhanced any benefit in Social Security.

A gallon of milk was 71 cents back in 1971. Look at the cost of milk. Look at the cost of gas. Look at the cost of heating and cooling your home. Look at the cost of groceries and prescription drugs.

And for Congress to be negligent and not address this issue—this is not something, Madam Speaker, that can be done through executive order, nor is the Supreme Court going to adjudicate. This is the direct responsibility of the United States Congress, and the last time it did something was in 1983. Ronald Reagan was the President. Bob Dole was the Senate leader, and Tip O'Neill, the Speaker. They made the program more solvent then, but they did it by cutting benefits; the last of

which just went into effect this January, with raising the age to 67.

Now, it sounds good when you say, well, people are living longer so we have got to raise the age. But consider the logic: If you are living longer, how is it that you can sustain a cut in Social Security?

It hasn't been enhanced in more than 51 years. It is Congress' responsibility. Ten thousand baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. It affects our rural communities more than it affects our urban communities. And in doing so, who has it impacted? Close to 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the Federal Government at a time we are passing out tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent in this country.

If, indeed, Black lives matter and is more than just a slogan, we will be voting on this issue on this floor to send a message to the more than 65 million Social Security recipients that help is on the way. No one will ever work all their lives and then retire into poverty because we are going to create a new floor that will be 125 percent of what the poverty level is.

Madam Speaker, I urge the body to take a look at Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust. This is bipartisan. If you look at the data, 80 percent of Democrats, 75 percent of Independents, 69 percent of Republicans agree that these benefits need to be enhanced. It is a commonsense, practical way in this pandemic to both deal with inflation and give long-overdue relief to our senior citizens.

Social Security is the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly. It is the number one anti-poverty program for children. Our veterans utilize Social Security disability more than the VA.

It is long overdue for this body to do one simple requirement that we all take an oath of office for, and that is to vote, and vote on increasing and enhancing Social Security and its benefits, something that hasn't been done in this body for more than 50 years.

□ 1030

PENNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S VARSITY SOCCER CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of the 2020 Pennridge High School women's varsity soccer team.

At a time when our schools were just reopening, the Pennridge women's soccer team seized the moment and went on to win their first PIAA Class 4A title on November 21, 2020.

This victory was years in the making, following a 2018 overtime loss in the final tournament game. Thanks to

the visionary leadership of Coach Audrey Anderson, the Pennridge women's varsity team pushed past the adversity and clinched the championship win.

With both teams battling through a contentious 80 minutes of regulation and 27 minutes of overtime, freshman forward Tori Angelo chipped a pass over to junior Leah Malone to score the game-winner with just a few minutes remaining.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize these champions today for their leadership and their outstanding efforts in their 2020 season, and I formally enter their names in the RECORD:

Head Coach Audrey Anderson, Assistant Coach Jason Lollar, Assistant Coach Erin Stevenson, captain Lindsey DeHaven, captain Leah Malone, captain Maddie Angelo, captain Emily Kriney, Sierra Shaeffer, Cady McKean, Anna Croyle, Zoe Sabol, Liv Grenda, Riley Hepler, Tori Angelo, Kera Dam, Casey Malone, Brielle Tasher, Jess Levush, Joey Tomlinson, Lauren Atchley, Lavi Baldovin, Lindsey Balmer, Raina Adelman, Sophie Craig, Aubrey Long, Avery Drumbore, Danae Luecke, Lauren Moylan, Maggie Hayes, Ryan Hodder, Sammi McBride, Sam Kiwak, and Phia Lowery.

Madam Speaker, along with that victory, it is with a heavy heart that I recognize the team's assistant coach who recently passed away, Robert Lee Miller.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Robert knows that he could always be found on the soccer field, lending his strengths and gifts to coach dozens of teams and mentor thousands of youth players.

As our Bucks County community mourns his loss and remembers his passion for the game, I would like to offer a moment of silence for Robert Miller.

Madam Speaker, we are incredibly grateful for the inspiration and impacts that the coaches of the entire Pennridge women's soccer team and, of course, the team's parents have had on our community. They are a tremendous asset.

We are very proud of all of them, and I look forward to seeing them all and presenting them with flags individually that were flown over the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE POWELL PANTHERS CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, might I say that is a wonderful outfit you are wearing today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Powell Panthers football team for winning its first-ever Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association State championship in 2021.

On December 3, 2021, the Panthers defeated the Page High School Patriots